



The Canaller

Charles F. Mercer Packet Boat Dedication September 9 at Great Falls

The public is cordially invited to join the C&O Canal and the Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern in a history-making event. The dedication ceremony for a new packet boat, *Charles F. Mercer*, will be held on Saturday, September 9 at 11 a.m. near the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. The ceremony will include the Wildcat Regimental Band and singing by local elementary school children followed with speeches by dignitaries and National Park Service staff.

The new boat is named for Charles F. Mercer who served as President of the C&O Canal Company from 1828 to 1833. Because of his many contributions, Mercer has been called by some as the “father of the C&O Canal.” See page 4 for a brief biography of Mercer.

This new boat replaces the old *Canal Clipper* at Great Falls which operated for thirty years on the C&O Canal. In the spring of 2003, the *Canal Clipper* suffered cracks in its hull which made it inoperable. In April 2004, Seven Locks Elementary School students drew attention to the need for a boat at Great Falls and collected \$3,160 to help purchase a new boat. Subsequently, the Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern successfully fund raised an additional \$530,840 needed for a new boat, including funds from Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

The Friends are having the boat built by Scarano Boat Builders, Inc. of Albany, NY. When the boat arrives in late August, the Friends will turn ownership of the boat over to the National Park Service, where it should be in service at the Great Falls Tavern for many years.



The new *Charles F. Mercer* packet boat is nearly complete for the dedication on Saturday, September 9 at 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center.

This beautiful replica double-decker packet boat has an aluminum hull and wooden superstructure of Port Orford cedar, grown in the town of Port Orford, Oregon. The color scheme of the new boat is based on a painting from the mid-1830s found by Park Ranger Rod Sauter. The painting depicts a scene of the canal with a packet boat in the Maryland Heights area.

The upper deck of the *Charles F. Mercer* will be open with benches, railings, and a structure to hold a canopy. Just as it was 150 years ago, power will be provided by two mules.

Packet boats were a common sight on the canal in the early years. It was not unusual in the last half of the 19th century to see a packet boat traveling from Georgetown to the Great Falls Tavern taking passengers for an evening of dining and dancing.

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, rides will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis aboard *Charles F. Mercer*. There is a fee for riding the boats. Groups of 10 or more people may call to make reservations. *The Georgetown* and *Charles F. Mercer* may be chartered for evening cruises. See page 2 for details about the boat rides. For additional information, please call either the Georgetown or Great Falls Tavern visitor centers.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the boat crews. Go to www.nps.gov/choh, click on “Volunteers” and select “Living History Volunteer - Boat Crew” for information. The C&O Canal looks forward to you visiting this fall either on *The Georgetown* or *Charles F. Mercer* so that we may wish you “welcome aboard.”

Don Harrison, President
Friends of Great Falls Tavern



From the Superintendent

The dedication of the park's new canal boat, the **Charles F. Mercer**, is the realization of a dream. It is a tremendous example of a private, state and federal partnership. I applaud the vision of the students from Seven Locks Elementary School and the leaders and members of Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern. We are grateful to so many of you who contributed to the building of this extraordinary boat. Because of these efforts our grandchildren will enjoy the unique experience of riding a mule drawn canal boat along the C&O Canal.

As you see in Don Harrison's article on the front page the Charles F. Mercer is based on packet boats of the 19th century. It also has features not found in any other canal boat. It includes a chair lift that will enable mobility impaired visitors to move themselves between decks. The "head" is wheelchair accessible, and the sound system includes a system that makes it possible for visitors with hearing aids to hear the ranger more clearly. In many ways it is state of the art.

Fall is a great time to enjoy the towpath. The changing leaves and cooler weather make recreational activities in the park all the more enjoyable. Remember to dress for the weather and drink plenty of water. Stop at Hancock during the Canal Apple Festival or at Brunswick for Railroad Days to learn more about the history of the canal and the communities it passes through. Be safe, and I'll see you on the towpath!

Kevin Brandt
Superintendent

Experience History by Way of a Canal Boat

The trip from Cumberland to Georgetown by canal boat was a long and demanding journey. Today, you have the opportunity to experience an entertaining and relaxing one-hour mule-drawn ride on a canal boat in Georgetown and Great Falls. Park rangers in period clothing demonstrate canal operations and describe the history and life of families who lived and worked along the canal during the 1870s.

Tickets are first-come, first served. Groups with 10 or more people may call to make reservations.



Canal boat rides are available in both Georgetown and Great Falls, Md.

The Georgetown

Summer: July 1 to Aug. 31

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.
11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Sat. and Sun.
11 a.m., 1:30, 3 & 4:30 p.m.

Fall: Sept. 1 to Oct. 29

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.
11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays
11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Fares for Georgetown:

\$8 Adults
\$6 Seniors (62+)
\$5 Children (4-14)

One-hour tours begin and end at
Georgetown Visitor Center
1057 Thomas Jefferson St.
Washington, D.C. 20007

For more information, call
Georgetown at
202-653-5190

Charles F. Mercer

Fall: Sept. 10 to Oct. 29

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.
11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays
11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Fares for Great Falls fall season only:

All tickets are \$2
except for children
ages 3 and under are free.

One-hour tours begin and end at
Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center
11710 MacArthur Blvd.
Potomac, MD 20854

For more information, call
Great Falls at
301-767-3714

Eastern National Bookstore

Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Income derived from these activities is used to aid the National Park Service. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$77 million to the National Park Service.

The following items are suggested to help you remember your visit or to enhance your understanding of the canal. Larger selections of items are available in all visitor centers. For ordering information, call 301-767-3714.

Boy Scouts of America Commemorative C&O Canal Trail Patch - This commemorative patch designed by the Boy Scouts of America can be purchased as a reminder of one's visit to the park or as recognition of biking or hiking the entire 184.5 miles of the canal. Item 323314, \$4.00



C&O Canal Company Medallion and Commemorative Bronze Coin - The front of this bronze coin is adorned with a replica historical canal boat that includes the canal's years of operation. The reverse side of the coin displays the historical seal of the C&O Canal Company and serves as a perfect reminder of your visit to the park. Item #414205, \$8.50

The C&O Canal Companion - A comprehensive guide of the canal and significant features. Item #2-47447, \$17.95

C&O Canal Tin Cup - Decorated with the emblem of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, these replica tin cups are an attractive and useful reminder of your visit to the canal. Cups can be purchased in black, blue, green, and red. Item #323270, \$6.00

Paw Paw Tunnel Wood Carving - A beautiful illustration of the Paw Paw Tunnel designed on wood; on the back, a brief history of the tunnel. This item serves as an excellent token for any visitor enthralled with this engineering marvel. Item #414831, \$17.00

Rita Knox
Park Ranger



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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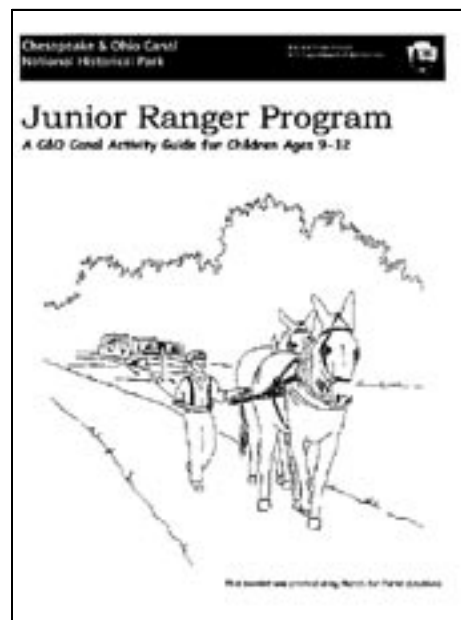
Chief of Interpretation:
Bill Justice

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Become a Junior Ranger!

Are you interested in exploring? Do you like history or nature? Would you like to learn more about the national park that belongs to you? Children near the ages 6-8 and 9-12 have the opportunity to join the National Park Service family as a Junior Ranger. If you are interested, stop by one of the visitor centers for a free age-appropriate activity booklet and complete a series of activities during your park visit. Share your written answers with a park ranger and receive an official Junior Ranger badge and Junior Ranger certificate.

To be a C&O Canal National Historical Park Junior Ranger is a very special privilege and honor because not everyone who visits the park becomes a Junior Ranger. Both children and adults benefit by sharing the fun of becoming a Junior Ranger. Join today!



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Charles F. Mercer

Who was Charles F. Mercer?

Charles Fenton Mercer (1778–1858) began to push for a continuous canal up the Potomac Valley while still a Virginia legislator (1810–1816). Once in the U.S. Congress, where he served from 1817 to 1839, he authored or supported many pieces of legislation that made it possible to organize the C&O Canal Company in 1828 and begin construction.

Mercer called together the great Canal Conference of 1823, negotiated the tricky legal and political path that transferred the Potomac Company's charter to the C&O Canal Company (giving the C&O prior rights to the Potomac shoreline), and that shepherded the legislation through Congress. This legislation authorized the federal government and the federal cities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria to purchase \$2,500,000 in canal company stock.

As the first President of the C&O Canal Company, serving from 1828 to 1833, Mercer was deeply involved not only in the company's administration, but in engineering and construction matters as well. Charles F. Mercer alone had the power, passion, position, and skills to envision what was necessary and possible. He obtained the essential political and private support to achieve it, making him truly the "father of the C&O Canal."

Karen Gray
Volunteer Librarian



C&O Canal Association

The C&O Canal Association is a citizens' association concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin. The Association supports the National Park Service in its efforts to preserve and promote the 184.5 mile towpath and the open spaces within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Membership is open to all.

Association activities include hikes, bike and canoe trips, a level walkers program, and special projects to support park activities. The Association provides opportunities for fellowship and education as well. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

For more information about the C&O Canal Association, activities, and special projects, visit the www.candocanal.org or call 301-983-0825.

C&O Canal Association Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Membership Rates (circle rate):

Individual \$15 Family \$20 Patron \$25

My C&O Canal Association badge should bear this name:

Second badge name (Patron or Family Membership)

Mail to:
C&O Canal Association
P.O. Box 366
Glen Echo, Md. 20812-0366

Recreation Along the Towpath

The C&O Canal “is a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace ...”

--Justice William O. Douglas

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks within the National Park system. It provides an expansive array of recreational opportunities.

In general, the surface of the towpath is an even hard-packed dirt trail ideal for hiking and biking. The towpath is the trail once used by the mules that pulled the canal boats. Whichever activity you enjoy on the canal, bring water and exercise caution to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

Biking is one way to see the canal. See page 8 for regulations and information.

Boating opportunities include Georgetown to Violettes Lock (mile 0-22); Big Pool (mile 112-113); Hancock (mile 124.1-124.7); Williamsport to Lock 44 (mile 99.8-99.30); Little Pool (mile 120-121) and Oldtown to Town Creek (mile 162-167). Use of electric motorized vessels is allowed only at Big Pool, Little Pool, and canal waters between Lock 68 (Oldtown) and Town Creek Aqueduct. Gasoline and propane motorized vessels are prohibited within the park. Personal flotation devices are required by the State of Maryland. Canoeing on the Potomac River can be hazardous and should only be done under the direct supervision of an experienced adult canoeist. To hear a taped message regarding river conditions in the lower Potomac Valley, call **703-260-0305**.

Hiker-biker campsites are located along the towpath about every five to seven miles. All 30 sites are primitive and are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water. Stay at hiker-biker campsites is limited to one night and eight people per site.

Drive-in campsites are located at McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, and Spring Gap. Primitive sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at a fee of \$10 per night per site. Camping is limited to eight persons, two vehicles, and two tents per campsite. Recreational vehicles are limited to 20 feet. No hookups are available. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water.

Group sites are available at McCoys Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Spring Gap, and Paw Paw for \$20 per night. No more than 35 people are allowed. Primitive camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Marsden Tract group camping is available for overnight use by organized groups. **Advance permit required.** The fee is \$20 per night. Parking for Marsden Tract is 0.5 miles downstream at Carderock. To obtain a permit, call the Great Falls Fee & Permit Office at 301-767-3731.

Walk-in campgrounds that have adjacent parking are Antietam Creek and Paw Paw. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$10 per night

per site. Camping is limited to eight persons, two vehicles, and two tents per campsite. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water.

Golden Access & Golden Age Passport holders receive a 50 percent discount on camping fees where applicable. Passports can be purchased at Great Falls Tavern Fee Booth.

Carderock Pavilion may be reserved by organizations by permit only. The pavilion has 26 picnic tables. Groups may reserve the pavilion for organized events from April 1 through October 31. Fees are \$150 for Mondays through Thursdays and \$250 for Fridays through Sundays and holidays. Call the Great Falls Fee & Permit Office at 301-767-3731 to make a reservation.

Fishing is permitted in accordance with state regulations. For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 301-898-9724 or the District of Columbia Department of Health at 202-535-2260.

Horseback riding is another way to enjoy the canal. Please see page 8 for additional information.

Hunting and camping in the park to establish a hunting base is prohibited in the park. Crossing park lands to access adjacent hunting areas with unloaded weapons is permitted in designated areas. For more information, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/choh or call park headquarters at 301-739-4200.

Ice skating is at your own risk except where prohibited by signs. Never skate alone.

Swimming is not permitted in the canal or in the Potomac River bordering the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Md. Swimming is not recommended in other areas of the river.

See pages 6 and 7 for a listing of all campsites, facilities, and access points.



Camping along the C&O Canal is just one way to enjoy the park. Photo of Antietam Campground.

C&O Canal Recreational Opportunities by Milepost

**Commercial
services are
subject to
change**



Bike Repairs



Boat Ramp



Canoe Ramp



Boat/Bike Rental



Fee Charged



Food



Groceries



Parking



Public Phone



Picnic Table



RV / Tent Camping

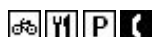


Tent Camping only



Visitor Center

0.1 Thompson Boat House



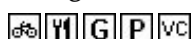
30.5 Chisel Branch – parking 0.3 mile upstream at Edward's Ferry



50.3 Bald Eagle Island – parking 1.5 mile upstream at Lander



0.4 Georgetown



30.8 Edward's Ferry



50.8 Lander



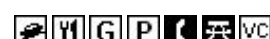
3.1 Fletchers Cove



34.4 Turtle Run – parking 1.1 mile upstream at Whites Ferry



55.0 Brunswick



10.5 Carderock



60.0 Sandy Hook – parking 4.9 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



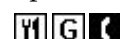
11.0 Marsden Tract – group camp-ground permit required. Parking 0.5 mile downstream at Carderock.



35.5 Whites Ferry



60.8 Harpers Ferry – parking 4.1 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



14.3 Great Falls



42.2 Monocacy Aqueduct



62.9 Huckleberry Hill – parking 2.0 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



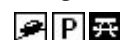
16.6 Swains Lock



42.5 Indian Flats – parking 0.3 mile downstream at Monocacy Aqueduct



64.9 Dargan Bend



22.8 Seneca



69.6 Antietam Creek



26.1 Horsepen Branch – parking 1.1 mile upstream at Sycamore Landing



44.6 Nolands Ferry



72.7 Lock 38 / Sharpsburg



27.2 Sycamore Landing



47.6 Calico Rocks – parking 0.5 mile upstream at Point of Rocks



75.2 Killiansburg Cave – parking 1.4 mile upstream at Snyders Landing



48.2 Point of Rocks



C&O Canal Recreational Opportunities by Milepost

76.6 Snyders Landing



79.2 Horseshoe Bend – parking 1.7 mile upstream at Taylors Landing



80.9 Taylors Landing



82.7 Big Woods – parking 1.8 mile downstream at Taylors Landing



85.5 Big Slackwater



88.1 McMahons Mill



90.9 Opequon Junction – parking 2.8 miles downstream at McMahons Mill



95.2 Cumberland Valley – parking 4.6 miles upstream at Williamsport



99.8 Williamsport



101.2 Jordan Junction – parking 1.6 mile downstream at Williamsport



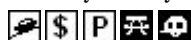
109.0 Four Locks



110.0 North Mountain – parking 0.4 mile upstream at McCoys Ferry



110.4 McCoys Ferry



112.4 Fort Frederick State Park



113.8 Big Pool



116.0 Licking Creek Aqueduct – parking 0.7 mile upstream, adjacent to Indian Springs exit off I-70



120.6 Little Pool – parking 3.9 miles upstream at Little Tonoloway



124.0 Hancock



124.5 Little Tonoloway



126.4 White Rock  Parking 1.9 miles upstream at Little Tonoloway

129.9 Leopards Mill – parking 0.8 mile upstream at Cohill Station.



130.7 Cohill Station



133.6 Cacapon Junction – parking 2.9 miles downstream at Cohill Station



139.2 Indigo Neck – parking 1.7 mile upstream at Fifteenmile Creek



140.9 Fifteenmile Creek



144.5 Devils Alley – parking 3.6 miles downstream at Fifteenmile Creek



149.4 Stickpile Hill – parking 6.7 miles upstream at Paw Paw



154.1 Sorrel Ridge – parking 2.0 miles upstream at Paw Paw



156.1 Paw Paw



157.4 Purslane Run – parking 1.3 mile downstream at Paw Paw



162.1 Town Creek



164.8 Potomac Forks – parking 1.9 mile upstream at Oldtown



166.7 Oldtown (Battie-Mixon)



169.1 Pigmans Ferry – parking 2.4 miles downstream at Oldtown



173.3 Spring Gap



175.3 Irons Mountain – parking 0.2 mile upstream at North Branch



175.5 North Branch / Lock 74



180.1 Evitts Creek – parking 3.1 miles upstream at Cumberland



184.5 Cumberland / Canal Terminus



**In case of an emergency,
call**

911 or 1-866-677-6677

Visitor Centers & Information

Georgetown Visitor Center (Mile 0.04)

Open Wednesdays - Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

1057 Thomas Jefferson Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 • 202-653-5190

Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center (Mile 14.3)

Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Entrance fees: \$3 per person; \$5 per vehicle;

\$20 annual pass. Also available for purchase at the entrance station:

National Park Pass, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports

11710 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, Maryland 20854 • 301-767-3714

Brunswick Visitor Center (Mile 50.8)

Open Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and

Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. The visitor center shares space with the Brunswick Railroad Museum.

40 West Potomac Street, Brunswick, Maryland 21716 • 301-582-0813

Williamsport Visitor Center (Mile 99.8)

Open Wednesdays - Sundays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, Maryland 21795 • 301-582-0813

Hancock Visitor Center (Mile 124.0)

Open Fridays - Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through September 17.

Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays.

The visitor center is closed during the winter season.

326 E. Main Street, Hancock, Maryland 21750 • 301-678-5463

Cumberland Visitor Center (Mile 184.5)

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Western Maryland Station, 13 Canal Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502 • 301-722-8226

Park Headquarters

Open Mondays - Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed holidays.

1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 • 301-739-4200

In case of an emergency, call 911 or 1-866-677-6677

Towpath Detour

Big Slackwater (Mile 84.5 to Mile 88.1)

Detour roads are narrow and steep in places. Use caution.

- Eastbound: Pass the old mill, onto Avis Mill Road. Turn right onto Dellinger Road. Turn right onto Dam 4 Road. Access the towpath via the dry canal bed at the bottom of the hill. Turn left onto the towpath to continue east.
- Westbound: Exit the towpath and turn right onto Dam 4 Road. Turn left onto Dellinger Road. Turn left onto Avis Mill Road. Access the towpath just past the old mill. Turn right onto the towpath to continue west.

Biking Regulations

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the towpath and trails.
- Ride single file; maximum speed of 15 MPH.
- Helmets are required in accordance with county ordinances; helmets are required for bikers under the age of 16.
- Sound-producing device must be sounded when approaching within 100 feet of other towpath users.
- Yield right-of-way to all pedestrians and horses.
- Walk bike over aqueducts and through the Paw Paw Tunnel.

Horseback Regulations

- Horseback riding is permitted on the towpath from Swains Lock (mile 16.6) to the Offutt Street crossing at Candoc (mile 181.8) in Cumberland.
- Horses are prohibited through the Paw Paw Tunnel—use the Tunnel Hill Trail.
- Riders may not exceed a slow trot.
- Dismount and walk horses across aqueducts; horses are prohibited on wooden footbridges, which are not designed to carry their weight.
- Remove all manure.
- Grazing is prohibited in the park. Feed for horses must be carried by the group.
- Watering, cleaning, or tethering horses near park wells is prohibited.
- Watering is permitted at public river access points (boat ramps).
- Access from private property is prohibited.
- Trail-rider camping is permitted at hiker-biker campsites with a limit of six persons, four horses, and one night per visit per site.
- Tether horses at the furthestmost portion of the campsite away from the tent and picnic table locations.
- Horse trailers are not allowed in drive-in camping areas. May use boat ramp parking lots.

Remember . . .

- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited on towpath and trails.
- The park is closed at dark with the exception of the towpath from Seneca to Cumberland and designated camping areas.
- The park is a Trash Free Park; trash bags are available; take your trash with you when you leave the park.
- Pets must be leashed (not to exceed six feet) or caged at all times.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.

Planning Your Visit:

Tidewater Lock (Mile 0) to Seven Locks (Mile 9.5)

Please call the Georgetown Visitor Center at 202-653-5190 for activities planned. See page 8 for address information and hours of operation.

***All visitor centers
will be closed on
Thanksgiving Day,
November 23, 2006.
The park will
remain open.***



Georgetown had been a port for more than 150 years when the canal was completed, but trade resulting from canal transportation boosted the town's economy. Countless tons of coal, flour, and lumber flowed into Georgetown, and the water-power furnished by the canal furthered industrial growth. During the canal's heyday, canal boats often got caught in "traffic-jams" up to five-miles long, sometimes waiting several days to unload their goods in Georgetown. Today Georgetown is still a vital part of Washington, D.C. In the midst of this bustling urban community, the canal provides a quiet place of refuge.



Enjoy a leisurely mule-drawn canal boat ride on the *Georgetown*. See page 2 for details.

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 0.0 - Tidewater Lock - a concrete marker designates the beginning of the canal.
- Mile 0.3 - a national historical marker for the canal.
- Mile 0.4 - Georgetown Visitor Center and the site of a bust commemorating Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and his 1954 hike that saved the canal from being paved as a parkway. The visitor center is being renovated. Call for hours of operation (202) 653-5190.
- Mile 1.0 - the remains of the Alexandria Aqueduct which once connected the C&O Canal to a canal in Virginia, leading to the port of Alexandria.
- Mile 1.5 - connection to the Capital Crescent Trail - old B&O Railroad spur to Bethesda.
- Mile 2.3 - Inclined Plane - built to lower boats directly into the Potomac River to by-pass the four locks leading to the Rock Creek basin.
- Mile 3.2 - Fletchers Cove and the Abner Cloud House - rent canoes, flatboats, and bikes at the boathouse at Fletchers Cove. The Abner Cloud House, built in 1801, is one of the oldest buildings along the canal.
- Mile 5.6 - visit the site, near Lock 6, where President John Quincy Adams broke ground for the C&O Canal on July 4, 1828.
- Mile 7.6 - Clara Barton House and Glen Echo Park - these two National Park Service sites are about a half-mile from the towpath.
- Mile 8.4 to 9.5 Seven Locks - seven different locks are located in this mile of canal. The Potomac Conservancy operates Lockhouse 8 River Center which is open most Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Planning Your Visit:

Seven Locks (Mile 9.5) to Monocacy River (Mile 31.9)

Please call the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at 301-767-3714 for activities planned. See page 8 for address information and hours of operation.

Life & Death on the C&O Canal Sat., Oct. 21, 6:30 - 9 p.m. Reservations Required

The tenth annual "Life and Death on the C&O Canal" will come back to life on the evening of Saturday, October 21, at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. This one-hour living history interpretive program will give visitors the opportunity to observe and appreciate some of the struggles workers and families faced on the C&O Canal during its construction and operation.

Along the approximately one-mile route, visitors will witness reenactments of some of the lesser known events in the canal's long and tumultuous history. All scenes are based on documented events or legends which grew from actual events from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Participants in the program dress in period clothing and perform various roles. Many have speaking parts, while others play the dying, the suffering, or the dead. Others carry lanterns and escort groups to ensure their safety. Discover the mysterious and interesting happenings that took place on the C&O Canal by joining the staff and volunteers for this exciting evening full of history and fun.

The Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center is located at 11710 MacArthur Blvd. in Potomac. Costumed rangers and volunteers will repeat the program every 15 minutes, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with approximately 25 visitors per group. Tickets for Life & Death go on sale Saturday, October 1. Advance registration and prepayment are required. Costs for tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children. Parental discretion is advised.

For more information or tickets, call the visitor center at 301-767-3714.

A spectacular demonstration of the river's power is displayed where the Potomac makes its sharpest drop at Great Falls near Potomac, Md. The river surges through narrow chutes and spills over huge rocks, then cuts deep into the bedrock below the falls, creating Mather Gorge. Six locks were required to drop canal boats 41 feet in less than a mile. At the uppermost lock, the lockkeeper's house built in 1829 was enlarged twice by 1831. With the expansion, it was known as Crommelin House, a popular hotel operating through the 19th century. Today, it houses the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center.



An early 20th century photo of the packet boat "Louise of Georgetown" in front of the Great Falls Tavern. Rides on a reproduction packet boat begin Sunday, September 10. See page 2 for details.

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 9.9 through Mile 13.8 - Billy Goat Trail: a series of three trails make up the Billy Goat Trail, intersecting the towpath in several locations. Section A is very strenuous. Call the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at 301-767-3714 for more information.
- Mile 13.6 through 14.4 - Six Locks: in less than a mile, these six locks were required to drop canal boats 41 feet around the Great Falls.
- Mile 14.4 - Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center: open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Trails in the area lead to the remains of the Maryland Gold Mine which operated in the area late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Mile 22.8 - Seneca Creek Aqueduct: one of 11 stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal and Rileys Lockhouse - Open most Sat. & Sun. beginning Sept. 18 from 1 to 4. Girl Scouts, dressed in period clothing, will lead tours of Rileys Lockhouse and demonstrate tasks.
- Mile 31.9 - Broad Run Trunk: first constructed as a double culvert for Broad Run, this was latter converted into an aqueduct of sorts, supported by a wooden trunk.
- Mile 35.5 - Whites Ferry: the last operating ferry on the Potomac River.
- Mile 42.2 - Monocacy Aqueduct, with its seven support arches, it is the largest of the 11 stone aqueducts.

Planning Your Visit:

Monocacy (Mile 31.9) to Ft. Frederick (Mile 112.1)

Please call the Williamsport Visitor Center at 301-582-0813 for activities planned. See page 8 for address information and hours of operation.

Lock Demonstrations

**Sat. & Sun. 2 to 3 p.m.
thru October**

Join a ranger to observe the workings of historic Lock 44 and find out about the sacrifices and challenges of canal families and lockkeepers. Lock 44 is a 10-minute walk downstream from the Williamsport Visitor Center.

Brunswick Railroad Days

Sat., Oct. 7 & Sun., Oct. 8

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Block Party, Sat., Oct 7, 6 to 10 p.m.

Brunswick will be holding their annual celebration of their railroad heritage with Railroad Days on October 7-8. Highlights include strolling minstrels and live entertainment, unique craft displays, carnival rides, antiques, a model train show, flea market and great food. The Brunswick Railroad Museum will display three floors of Brunswick history and a working model train layout that depicts life along the railway in the 1950s from Union Station (Washington, DC) to Brunswick, Maryland. These will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A block party will be held at Railroad Square Stage from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday.

At mile 55 lies the town of Brunswick, a town whose history can be understood from the many names it has had. It was first named Merry Peep-O-Day in 1753 for the sunlight appearing over the eastern hills. Later it became known as Berlin, a reference to the German settlers locating to the area. But Brunswick gained the most notoriety in 1890, when the canal's arch-rival, the B&O railroad, decided to build its switch yard here. At seven miles long, it was said to be the longest yard owned by a single railroad. You can learn more about both canal and railroad history by visiting the Brunswick Visitor Center in town, open Friday-Sunday.



Cushwa Basin in Williamsport

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 48.4 - Point of Rocks: canal construction halted for 4 years here in a right-of-way dispute with the railroad. The railroad tunneled through the mountain, but after the canal operation ceased, the railroad laid track over the canal bed.
- Mile 50.9 - Lander Lockhouse (Lockhouse 29)
- Mile 51.5 - Catoctin Aqueduct: sometimes referred as the "Swayback Aqueduct" due to sag in the middle caused by its elliptical arch. The aqueduct collapsed in the 1970s.
- Mile 55.0 - Brunswick: a short walk across the parking lot and around the block is the Brunswick Museum and visitor center filled with exhibits about the canal, railroad, and community. Open: Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.
- Mile 60.7 - Harpers Ferry: across the footbridge is Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- Mile 69.4 - Antietam Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 84.6 - Stop Gate: the winch house was used to raise and lower beams to control water in the canal.
- Mile 88.1 - McMahon's Mill: originally constructed as a grist mill and later used to generate electricity.
- Mile 99.6 - Cushwa Basin and Conococheague Aqueduct. Inside the historic Cushwa Warehouse is the Williamsport Visitor Center, open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Just beyond the basin is the Conococheague Aqueduct.
- Mile 108.8 through 109 - Four Locks: this series of locks allowed boats to cut across the bend rather than follow the river. Several buildings from the historic community still remain.
- Mile 112.1 - Fort Frederick Park: the fort is about 0.3 miles from the towpath.



Planning Your Visit:

Ft. Frederick (Mile 112.1) to Cumberland (Mile 184.5)

Please call the Cumberland Visitor Center at 301-722-8226. See page 8 for address information and hours of operation.

Paw-Paw Tunnel Tours

**Sat. only thru Sept. 2
2 to 3 p.m.**

Come tour the largest structure on the C&O Canal. The Paw Paw Tunnel was perhaps the most difficult to build. Learn the history surrounding this great architectural feature.

Terminus Basin in Cumberland

**Sun. only thru Sept. 3
3:15 to 4 p.m.**

Meet at the mule statue in front of the Cumberland Visitor Center for a park ranger guided walk of the recently rewatered section of the Terminus Basin.

Lockhouse 75 at North Branch

**Sat. & Sun. only thru Labor Day, Sept. 4
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Lockhouse 75 is located off MD Route 51, five miles south of Cumberland. Open by members of the C&O Canal Association.

Canal Apple Days Festival in Hancock

**Sat., Sept. 16 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and
Sun., Sept. 17, noon to 5 p.m.**

Join the family fun. The C&O Canal will have displays set up at Widmeyer Park and the Hancock Visitor Center will be open during the weekend.

Lockhouse 70 at Oldtown

**Sat. & Sun. only thru Oct. 29
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Lockhouse 70 is located off MD Route 51, 15 miles south of Cumberland.

Visit the C&O Canal
website at
www.nps.gov/choh

Cumberland, Md., was in the unique position of being the western terminus of the C&O Canal, a stop on the B&O Railroad, and the eastern terminus of the Cumberland Road. In the mid-19th century it was the center of the eastern coal trade and the most important trading city between tidewater and the Ohio River – the “Queen City of the Alleghenies.” Not only did the canal’s main cargo originate in Cumberland, but the town’s boat yards also turned out most of the canal boats. Over the years Cumberland built a solid economic base and, unlike other canal towns, prospered after the canal was gone.



The north or downstream entrance to the Paw Paw Tunnel. (Mile 155)

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 116.1 - Licking Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 123 Tonoloway Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal
- Mile 124 - Off the towpath is the Hancock Visitor Center. Closed during the winter. season.
- Mile 127.4 Round Top Cement Mill: the arches along the rock face were limestone kilns used to produce cement.
- Mile 136.6 Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 140.9 Fifteenmile Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 154.5 Lock 63 1/3 and Lock 64 2/3: when building the canal, the company decided that only two locks were needed instead of the three planned. Instead of renumbering locks upstream, they numbered these two locks with fractions and skipped Lock 65.
- Mile 155.2 -155.8 Paw Paw Tunnel: the canal company chose to tunnel through a mountain. for 3,118 feet to save the extra 5 miles of building the canal around the river bends.
- Mile 162.4 Town Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 166.7 Lockhouse 70: open Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Mile 175.7 Lockhouse 75: open Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Mile 180.7 Evitts Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 184.5 Canal Terminus: from the Visitor Center, follow the gray bricks from the plaza to the towpath. The Cumberland Visitor Center is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.